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Dated: February 4, 2004

Signature: Jeffrey K. Berger

(Jeffrey K. Berger)

Docket No.: 19036/37906
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kazuhiko Yamashita et al.

Application No.: 10/031,561

Art Unit: 2841

Filed: October 25, 2001

Examiner: R. W. Gibson

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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

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Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows. Applicants herewith petition for a one month extension of time to file this response, the extended period of response thereby being set to expire February 7, 2004.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.